

DERWENT VALLEY MILLS WORLD HERITAGE SITE

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Sara Claxton
Development Control
Neighbourhoods
Derby City Council
The Council House
Corporation Street
Derby DE1 2FS

6th July 2018

Dear Sara

DER 06/18/00993: Change of use from offices (use class B1) to cafe (use class A3) in part of the Proto-Fireproof Building, Darley Abbey Mills.

Please find below the latest DVMWHS response to the consultation concerning the above application. These comments will be taken to the World Heritage Site Conservation and Planning Panel for verification next week.

The proposed development lies within the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site (DVMWHS). The Derwent Valley Mills were inscribed on the World Heritage List by UNESCO in 2001. The Derwent Valley Mills Partnership, on behalf of HM Government is pledged to conserve the unique and important cultural landscape of the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site; to protect its outstanding universal value (OUV), to interpret and promote its assets; and to enhance its character, appearance and economic well-being in a sustainable manner.

The retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value (SOUV) for the Derwent Valley Mills was adopted by the World Heritage Committee in 2010. The SOUV refers to the following UNESCO criteria, which the World Heritage Committee agreed were met at the time of inscription. They are:

- C(ii) That the site exhibits “an important interchange of human values, over a span of time or within a cultural area of the world, on developments in architecture or technology, monumental arts, town planning or landscape design”;
- C(iv) That the site is “an outstanding example of a type of building or architectural or technological ensemble or landscape, which illustrates a significant stage in human history”.

The SOUV records that these criteria were met for the following reasons:

- C(ii) The Derwent Valley saw the birth of the factory system, when new types of building were erected to house the new technology for spinning cotton developed by Richard Arkwright in the late 18th century.

C(iv) In the Derwent Valley for the first time there was large-scale industrial production in a hitherto rural landscape. The need to provide housing and other facilities for workers and managers resulted in the creation of the first modern industrial settlements.

A Management Plan for the World Heritage Site was created in 2002, and updated in 2014. It has as the first of its nine aims to: “protect, conserve and enhance the Outstanding Universal Value of the DVMWHS.” In accordance with this aim, and with reference to Section 12.1 of the Management Plan, I have consulted with Derbyshire County Council’s Conservation, Heritage and Design Service (which advises the World Heritage Site Partnership in planning matters), and have received the following advice:

The proto-fireproof building is a Grade II * building and forms part of the Darley Abbey Mills complex which sits within the DVMWHS. The former cotton mill complex is of great importance to the WHS as an attribute which contributes to the power-harnessing and production related value as defined in the DVMWHS Management Plan. In more recent years the mill complex has seen a number of changes of use, as a mixed-use commercial development, as part of a wider masterplan for the site which have helped to sustain the heritage asset.

The proposed development seeks permission for the change of use from offices (use class B1) to cafe (use class A3). In order to achieve this the proposals include the removal of the internal (non-approved) stud partition walls made to the building circa 1990 to create office space and to remove the (non-approved) internal catering fittings which were installed circa 2010. The proposed internal layout will provide a reconfigured commercial kitchen, a seating area and a new disabled toilet.

As the proposals should not require the removal of any historically significant building fabric and as they are considered to be removable/reversible then it is considered that, on balance there should, there should be no harm done to the significance of the building and consequently the OUV of the DVMWHS. In addition, as the proposed development should also ensure the continued use and sustainability of the site, the WHS Partnership supports the application.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on the application.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Adrian Farmer', written in a cursive style.

Adrian Farmer

Heritage Co-ordinator,
Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site.
cc Chloe Oswald, Derby City Council.